

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Ministry: All of us

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

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cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Christmas Eve at the Village Church

We are excited to be holding an in-person Christmas Eve Service December 24th. There will be carols connected to the Nativity story, and the traditional method of lighting candles in a circle at the end as we see together how each heart flame makes a difference.

Planning will take place during the December 19 church time at 10. Phoebe Harrison will teach how to use American Sign Language for “Silent Night.” Young people will rehearse a Christmas pageant. Adults will work on simple presents to give out on Christmas Eve by creating small “soul” collages with positive messages. Please bring scissors and old magazines and old calendars.

Please give any suggestions for what you’d most like for our service together to Melody Sanislos and Sarah Pirtle.

For safety, please arrive masked and take precautions not to come if family members are ill. We’ll be zooming the service—better to watch at home than take a chance.

Blue Christmas

At West Cummington, we are hungering and thirsting for another Blue Christmas service. We invite you and your congregations to join us and take part here on Thursday, December 16th at 7 PM. If you can make it we’d be delighted.

The holidays can be difficult times for anyone who has suffered loss or hurt. “Blue Christmas” is a service to recognize that reality. It is a moment of comfort, it is a way we can recognize the depth of the season and help process those negative feelings that might be held within during the holidays. By doing so, we can all celebrate more fully, knowing we have acknowledged those who are no longer with us or what we might have left behind.

Heart of the Hilltowns

A new show featuring Oil Portraits by Jeanne Johns is opening at the Cummington Community House, 33 Main St., December 3rd 5–7 PM and continues until December 31.

Cummington Walking Map

Cummington now has a map with twelve popular walking routes through town. To view it you can copy the link below or go to the Town of Cummington website and link from there.

<https://cummington-ma.gov/PDFs/CtonWalksMap10:19.pdf>

Christmas Gift Program

Brenda Arbib is doing the Christmas gift program for the Hilltown Food Pantry. The family gives a list of suggested gifts and the children’s ages; we try to spend about \$50 per child. We will be distributing gifts early—December 15. If you would like to make a donation or buy gifts, contact Brenda Arbib, land line 634-5542 or cell 413-512-0842, email arbib3@yahoo.com

Quaker Meeting

There will be a Quaker meeting on Sunday December 12th at 10 AM in the vestry at the Village Church. Please wear masks, or N95 masks will be available.

We worship in silence unless the spirit moves us to speak, or one can just silently meditate.

For more information, please call Tim at 413-634-8098.

Aging Gracefully via ZOOM

This is a Community discussion group, sponsored by the Council on Aging, focusing on Living Fully, Aging Gracefully, and Befriending Death, open to all residents of the Hilltowns and beyond.

We talk about it all here, the good, the bad and the ugly! It’s a chance to share challenges and solutions, hopes and fears about aging well and living fully. Practical or philosophical, funny or sad—often both at the same time. Come join us!

The group now meets via zoom at the usual time—the second Tuesday of each month from 1–3 PM. If you would like to join us online please send an email beforehand to Annie or Lucy.

For further information please contact: Wynne or Lucy 634-5576 wynlucy@gmail.com or Annieannie@crocker.com

Looking for Board Members

Please consider joining the COA’s board of directors. The meetings are on the first Thursday of the month and last for about 1.5 hours. Additional time commitments vary according to our scheduled programs and activities. The only requirements are that you be a resident of Cummington and that you are interested in serving the needs and interests of our town’s older residents. If you are interested, leave a message at the COA office at 634-2262.

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041, Josh Wachtel at 634-5005 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

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Merry Christmas



Happy Hannukah



HAPPY KWANZAA



Happy Holidays



The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the January 2022 issue is December 27, 2021. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrbllooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entry-way of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.

from the Village Church

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 413 320-6544. The church charges a very nominal fee for upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!